

Study Asks Heber Steam Railroad

About 22 Sep 1970

Special to The Tribune

HEBER CITY — A preliminary feasibility study of establishing a scenic steam railroad in Heber Valley running between Heber City and Deer Creek Dam or Wildwood in

Provo Canyon was presented Thursday to representatives of the Utah State Road Commission at a meeting in the Wasatch County Courthouse.

The study was presented by Love Ashton, chairman of the

"Save the Heber Creeper" Committee, Wasatch County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ashton listed what he called unique circumstances that make a scenic steam railroad more favorable now than any other time.

He said the state of Utah owns the right-of-way that the right-of-way parallels much of Wasatch Mountains State Park, the community interest in the tourist attraction is high, the large amount of valuable steam railroad equipment which is now available through the Wasatch Railway Museum and Foundation Corp., could be used, there would be a loss to the western tourist of the popular Silverton-Durango scenic steam railroad and the growth of steam railroads as tourist attractions have mushroomed within the past eight years.

The chamber committee asked for an extension of six months to complete their feasibility study. The State Road Commission will meet Tuesday and decide whether more time will be allowed.

The Tuesday meeting was originally scheduled for awarding of bids for salvaging the railroad tracks in Provo Canyon.

Mr. Ashton said it would be necessary to use existing tracks in the Provo Canyon right-of-way between Wildwood and Heber City. He said the use of track and right-of-way would not interfere with the proposed highway improvement, so long as present plans continue to follow the existing highway.

Another reason for the request of additional time is because there is railroad equipment needed for the proposed steam railroad.